

2004 HUNTING SEASONS

SPECIES	SEASON DATES	SHOOTING HOURS	DAILY BAG LIMIT	POSSESSION LIMIT
MOURNING, COLLARED & WHITE-WINGED DOVES	Sept. 1–Nov. 9	One-half Hour Before Sunrise to Sunset‡	12*	24*
COMMON SNIPE	Sept. 1–Dec. 16		8	16
SORA & VIRGINIA RAIL	Sept. 1–Nov. 9		25*	25*
AMERICAN WOODCOCK	Oct. 15–Nov. 28		3	6
BLUE-WINGED, GREEN-WINGED & CINNAMON TEAL	Sept. 11–Sept. 19	Sunrise to Sunset‡	4*	8*

*Combined total of all species.

‡See page 7 for sunrise/sunset table.

HARVEST SURVEY NEEDS YOUR RESPONSE

When you purchase your Migratory Bird Hunting Permit, the vendor asks you a series of questions about your last year's migratory bird hunting activities. The answers you provide place you in a category with other migratory bird hunters by type and amount of hunting activity. This allows the Conservation Department and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, through the cooperative effort known as the Migratory Bird Harvest Information Program, to use harvest surveys to sample hunters from each category. This survey information is extremely important and is considered when establishing migratory bird hunting seasons each year. Your cooperation in supplying this information is vital. If you are one of the Missouri migratory bird hunters selected to receive a survey, please complete and return it even if you did not hunt or were unsuccessful while afield. All the information you provide is important. By completing the survey, you are doing your part to help manage these important migratory birds.

2004 Teal Season Outlook

The timing of migrations, weather, and wetland habitat conditions have a greater influence on teal hunting success in Missouri than does the number of teal in the fall flight. Regardless, the status of blue-winged teal does directly influence whether or not a hunting season is offered and, if so, the number of days allowed. When blue-winged teal population estimates are between 3.3 and 4.7 million, a season of up to nine days is offered. When the breeding population is above 4.7 million, up to 16 days are allowed. The spring 2004 estimate for blue-winged teal was 4.1 million, which is lower than the 2003 estimate of 5.5 million, but within the range that allows a nine-day season.

Blue-winged teal migrate earlier and winter farther south than any other North American duck species. They begin arriving in Missouri by mid-August and are normally present through September. Bluewings account for the majority of the September season harvest, while green-winged teal usually comprise less than 20 percent. Annual teal harvest has ranged widely from 6,500 during 1993 to 34,500 during 1982.

September teal seasons are designed to correspond to blue-winged teal migrations, yet avoid initial arrivals of other early migrant species, such as pintails and shovelers. Even so, wood ducks reared in Missouri and early migrant duck species other than teal present hunters with the responsibility of identifying their target before they shoot. A sunrise opening ensures adequate light for correct identification.

In Missouri, ideal habitat conditions for teal include shallowly flooded annual vegetation that has produced small seeds. During dry seasons, favorable habitat occurs primarily on private or public wetlands with managed water. Timely rainfall during late August or early September is needed to produce excellent teal habitat over a wide-spread area.

**SUNRISE AND SUNSET AT JEFFERSON CITY, MO.
Central Standard Time**

DAY	SEPT.		OCT.		NOV.		DEC.	
	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.	Rise A.M.	Set P.M.
1	6:38	7:39	7:04	6:52	6:35	5:09	7:07	4:48
2	6:39	7:38	7:05	6:50	6:36	5:08	7:08	4:48
3	6:39	7:36	7:06	6:49	6:37	5:07	7:09	4:48
4	6:40	7:35	7:07	6:46	6:38	5:06	7:10	4:48
5	6:41	7:33	7:08	6:46	6:39	5:05	7:11	4:47
6	6:42	7:32	7:09	6:44	6:41	5:04	7:12	4:47
7	6:43	7:30	7:10	6:43	6:42	5:03	7:13	4:47
8	6:44	7:28	7:11	6:41	6:43	5:02	7:14	4:47
9	6:45	7:27	7:12	6:40	6:44	5:01	7:14	4:47
10	6:46	7:25	7:13	6:38	6:45	5:00	7:15	4:48
11	6:46	7:24	7:14	6:37	6:46	4:59	7:16	4:48
12	6:47	7:22	7:15	6:35	6:47	4:58	7:17	4:48
13	6:48	7:21	7:16	6:34	6:48	4:57	7:18	4:48
14	6:49	7:19	7:17	6:32	6:49	4:57	7:18	4:48
15	6:50	7:16	7:18	6:31	6:50	4:56	7:19	4:49
16	6:51	7:16	7:19	6:30	6:51	4:55	7:20	4:49
17	6:52	7:13	7:19	6:28	6:53	4:54	7:20	4:49
18	6:53	7:13	7:20	6:27	6:54	4:54	7:21	4:50
19	6:53	7:11	7:22	6:25	6:55	4:53	7:21	4:50
20	6:54	7:09	7:23	6:24	6:56	4:53	7:22	4:50
21	6:55	7:08	7:24	6:23	6:57	4:52	7:23	4:51
22	6:56	7:06	7:25	6:21	6:58	4:51	7:23	4:51
23	6:57	7:05	7:26	6:20	6:59	4:51	7:24	4:52
24	6:58	7:03	7:27	6:19	7:00	4:50	7:24	4:53
25	6:59	7:01	7:28	6:17	7:01	4:50	7:24	4:53
26	7:00	7:00	7:29	6:16	7:02	4:50	7:25	4:54
27	7:01	6:58	6:30	5:15	7:03	4:49	7:25	4:54
28	7:02	6:57	6:31	5:14	7:04	4:49	7:25	4:55
29	7:02	6:55	6:32	5:13	7:05	4:49	7:26	4:56
30	7:03	6:54	6:33	5:11	7:06	4:48	7:26	4:57
31			6:34	5:10			7:26	4:57

This table is for Jefferson City and points on the same longitude north and south. For locations east, subtract one minute for each 13.5 miles of airline distance. For locations west, add one minute for each 13.5 miles. Sunrise and sunset from Sept. 1 to Oct. 26 have been converted to Daylight-Savings Time.